THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 4, 1975

KATHIE

Save and lock up this report on Sarah Jane Moore.

I want to keep it.

DICK

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

September 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Donald H. Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President
The White House

From : Mr. H. S. Knight

Subject : Sarah Jane Moore

In response to your request, there is attached a preliminary intelligence report on Sarah Jane Moore. A complete review of the incident will be forwarded as soon as possible.

H. S. Knight
Director

Attachment

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

This form marks the file location of item number 1a as listed on the pink form (GSA form 7122, Withdrawal Sheet) at the front of the folder.

Copy from
Gerald R. Ford Library

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1	Dick to Kathie, 10/4/75		
1a. Report	Secret Service report on Sarah Jane Moore	Undated (ca. 9/26/75)	C

Redacted 12/16/2025 (page 9)

FILE LOCATION

Cheney Files
General Subject File
President - Assassination Attempt by Sarah Jane Moore Box 9

RESTRICTION CODES

(A) Closed by Executive Order 12356 governing access to national security information.
(B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
(C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

WHM, 5/24/85

SARAH JANE MOORE CO-2-71022

Sarah Jane Moore, aka Aalberg, white female, born 2-15-30 at Charleston, W. Va., was brought to the attention of the Secret Service at about 8:30 p.m., September 20, 1975 (Saturday), by San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) Inspector Jack O'Shea who telephonically advised Special Agent Martin Haskell, San Francisco office, as follows:

Sarah Moore, a current informant for the SFPD and the local FBI office, on Sunday, September 21, was to introduce a gun dealer to an undercover agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and that this gun dealer was probably in violation of the Federal Firearms Act. Inspector O'Shea said that Sarah Moore had requested a meeting at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, September 21, because she had a 2 p.m. appointment in Palo Alto, California. When Inspector O'Shea inquired as to the nature of her 2 p.m. appointment, she answered that she was to attend a demonstration at Stanford University. She further stated that she kept a .44 caliber Charter Arms revolver in her purse, and added "What if I told you something that could get me arrested?" Inspector O'Shea then responded, "For what?" Moore replied,"For carrying a weapon. I have been in protests before. I want to test the system."

Because the President was not to arrive in Palo Alto until mid-afternoon of September 21, and other priority advance arrangements were in progress, it was not deemed necessary to interview Sarah Moore at this time because Inspector O'Shea stated she would definitely meet him at 9:30 a.m., on September 21. If for some reason she did not appear as pre-arranged, he (Inspector O'Shea) would immediately contact the Secret Service at Palo Alto. In addition to notifying the Secret Service immediately, O'Shea advised he would immediately send photographs of her to the Secret Service at Palo Alto. He added that if Moore in fact was in possession of a firearm she would be arrested for that type of violation. He agreed to notify the Secret Service immediately following the undercover meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Sunday, September 21.

Inspector O'Shea did not contact the Secret Service about Moore's disposition. At 1:30 p.m., September 21, SA Haskell attempted to contact the inspector at his residence and office, with negative results. The SFPD Operations Division was asked to contact Inspector O'Shea via radio and have him contact the Service at the Secret Service Command Post at Stanford University. Subsequently, Inspector O'Shea did contact SA Haskell and he advised that he met with Sarah Moore that morning, but that she was now at her residence, 565 Guerrero Street, San Francisco. Since she had not been arrested, the Secret Service

PHOTOCOPY
FROM
GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

requested that she be kept under surveillance. Inspector O'Shea stated that he would comply. As a precautionary measure, in case Sarah Moore was not at home when the officers arrived, SA Haskell requested Captain Tatum of the Palo Alto Police Department and Captain Konar of the Stanford University Police Department to put out an "all points" bulletin for her car, a 1970 tan Toyota, California license 147 BWB. The physical description was relayed by two Secret Service frequencies to all the agents' posts at Stanford University.

After this precautionary measure was taken, Agent Haskell had a telephone call from Lt. Ray White, SFPD, who is Inspector O'Shea's supervisor, asking if Inspector O'Shea had in fact advised this Service of the subject's disposition. When Lt. White was told that Moore was not arrested and was at her residence, he said that she would be picked up on the gun charges. Prior to the President's arrival at Stanford University, this Service was advised by the SFPD that Sarah Moore had been arrested on gun charges as promised by Lt. White. The "all points" bulletin for Sarah Moore and her car was cancelled and all Secret Service posts advised of this arrest.

Following the President's departure from Stanford University area, Agents Haskell and Gary Yauger went to the SFPD City Prison to interview Sarah Moore. The booking sergeant told them they had no record of Sarah Moore being arrested by that police department on September 21, 1975.

Agent Haskell then telephoned Inspector O'Shea at his home and he was told the SFPD seized a .44 caliber Special Charter Arms revolver, Serial No. 194067, and eleven rounds of .44 special bullets from Moore's purse. The police department searched her 1970 Toyota and seized two boxes of .44 special bullets. Sarah Moore had been then transported to the Mission Precinct where she was cited for violation of 12025 California Penal Code - carrying firearms without a license, a misdeameanor. Following this citation, Sarah Moore was released by the San Francisco Police Department.

Agents Haskell and Yauger then went to 565 Guerrero Street, San Francisco, Moore's residence, at about 10:15 p.m., where an interview was initiated. Mrs. Moore asked that she not be interviewed at her home because of her informant role with the FBI and SFPD, and the fact that a friend was present in the house. She was then taken to the San Francisco Secret Service office where they arrived at about 10:30 p.m.

PHOTOCOPY
FROM
GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

At the beginning of the interview Sarah Moore appeared somewhat upset that she had come to the attention of the Secret Service. She provided background information to Agents Haskell and Yauger and spoke in a clear and calm voice. At one point she appeared as if she were going to cry. She was then asked if she would like to speak to Inspector O'Shea. He was called on the telephone and talked with Mrs. Moore, and told her to cooperate with the agents. She appeared to relax and told Inspector O'Shea that she believed Inspector O'Shea had taken her statements out of context (getting arrested at Stanford). Sarah Moore advised the agents that she was born on February 15, 1930, at Charleston, West Virginia, has Social Security No. 235-42-5245 and that she formerly worked for Mahoney Concrete Company up until May 1975. She said she was currently working as an informant for the FBI and the SFPD. When questioned about Stanford she said that in the past she had joined non-violent protests. She further said she was thinking of going with her gun, but was also thinking about leaving it at home. She said she never kept bullets in the gun because of her son being in the house. She said if she had to carry the gun, she did not know if she would have it loaded. She said she was not planning to take action against anyone.

She said, in fact, the only person she had thought of "offing" (killing) was that she had passing fantasies of "offing" her FBI case agent. She was asked her intentions if, in fact, she did take her loaded gun to Stanford; if she was planning to shoot the President and she replied, "no." She was then asked whether she was planning any other disruptive action with the weapon and she replied she did not plan to shoot anyone. She said she had purchased the gun three weeks ago for personal protection. She said that due to the work with the FBI and SFPD, she had received numerous threats on her life. She declined to identify the source of the purchase of the gun. She said that the FBI had suggested that she move from San Francisco.

As to her political beliefs, she stated that the Ford Administration wasn't controversial enough to demonstrate against until Ford selected Nelson Rockefeller as his Vice President. She stated that David Rockefeller was the real financial influence and that the President was merely a puppet. She said she had participated in a few anti-Rockefeller protests in the past. Sarah Moore was questioned as to her membership in any organizations and she admitted being a supporter of the United Farm Workers. She also stated that she had participated in the food give-away program sponsored by the Hearst Foundation following the kidnapping of Patty Hearst.

Since the Progressive Labor Party was planning a demonstration on September 22 at Union Square, San Francisco, she was also asked if

FROM
GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

she was planning to participate in that demonstration, to which she replied, "no" that she was not a member of the organization. During this interview she said she did not own or possess any other weapons other than the .44 caliber revolver seized by the SFPD on September 21.

Throughout the interview she did not display any overt signs of mental illness. She appeared to be an aging woman who wanted to be in groups and be involved in undercover work to get attention and self-satisfaction. At this point a determination was made that at that time this subject was not considered a danger to the protectees of this Service. Sarah Moore was photographed and returned to her residence at 565 Guerrero at about 11:35 p.m. Agents Haskell and Yauger returned to the St. Francis Hotel where the results of this interview were relayed to the Intelligence Division at Washington, D. C. A background investigation was ordered.

Prior to the President's departure from the hotel, Assistant Special Agent in Charge Ronald Pontius told a White House staff member to request the President not to cross the street to shake hands with the crowd but to go directly to the car. Pontius told Jack Merchant, ASAIC of the Presidential Protective Division who was accompanying the President, "Don't take him across the street." Pontius also directed that additional police be placed in front of the crowd across from the hotel because of the appearance of the crowd. Eight additional police were moved to that area.

At 3:30 p.m. (PDT) on Monday, September 22, 1975, Sarah Moore fired a hand gun toward the President as he was getting into his limousine at the Post Street entrance at the St. Francis Hotel. She was immediately thrown to the ground by members of the Service and local police officers. The round fired ricocheted and inflicted a minor flesh wound on an innocent bystander, John Ludwig, who received treatment and was released from a local hospital. After the President's motorcade left the area, Sarah Moore was taken to the Borgia Room at the St. Francis Hotel for safekeeping. She suffered a nose bleed and minor facial abrasions when she was thrown to the ground. She appeared slightly shaken, but did not appear to be seriously injured.

At 3:55 p.m., SA Yauger read Sarah Moore her constitutional rights and she executed SSF 1737, warning and waiver of rights form. She was then questioned about her actions between last night's interview and today's shooting.

Sarah Moore said that about 8 a.m., September 22, 1975, she went to a pay telephone near her home (she does not have a telephone), and called the Secret Service office. The operator told her that Agent Haskell could not be reached. She said she would call back. She then

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

called the FBI on 552-2155 and talked to Agent Bertram Worthington. She told him that he would get a call because she had been picked up by the Secret Service. She told him she had been interviewed about having a gun and mentioning going to Stanford. She told him she was somewhat out of sorts at this time and he asked her where she was. She said she was in a phone booth. She said Worthington told her to go somewhere and vegetate (leave town). After calling the FBI she then called the Secret Service and asked for Agent Haskell or Yauger. She said the man told her he was not in yet. She then identified herself and the man said both agents would be in around 8:30 or 9:00. She then hung up. At 9 a.m., she made another call from the phone booth to the Secret Service office and a woman answered. Moore asked for Agent Haskell or Yauger again. She was told they were not in, and she asked where they could be reached. At this time she said she would reach them later. She then terminated the conversation.

Sarah Moore then called the San Francisco PD and asked for Inspector O'Shea. She did not remember her conversation but told O'Shea that she wanted to see him. O'Shea told her he was busy but would let her talk to Joe O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan told her that they were all busy with the President and to call back tomorrow (September 23).

Later that same morning, she called Mark Fernwood, a gun dealer, and told him a friend needed a gun, a revolver, and did he have one. He said "yes" and she drove to his home in the East Bay and bought a gun. She paid with a check and was given an S&W .38 caliber chrome-plated revolver, Serial No. J255186, and several rounds of target type ammunition. Fernwood told her this was the only type of ammunition he had for the revolver. She said she asked him how powerful it was and was it any good? He said it was good ammo.

Sarah Moore said she then proceeded to downtown San Francisco where she decided to see the demonstration at Union Square. She said it was about noon when she arrived there. She walked in the square, watching the demonstration but did not try to come into the hotel. She remembered that while in the park four policemen were walking behind her and she thought they were following her. She then went to the north side of Post Street and joined the crowd opposite the entrance of the St. Francis Hotel. At this time she saw Joe O'Sullivan of the police department and thought he recognized her. She thought that he nodded towards her but admitted he could have been acknowledging someone else. Mrs. Moore said she saw both Agents Haskell and Yauger during the time she was in the crowd on the sidewalk. She said SA Yauger was going all over the place and at one time she was sure he had spotted her from across the street. She said she worked her way to the front of the roped area

PHOTOCOPY
FROM
GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

and had a view of the entrance area on Post Street. She had her dark handbag on her right shoulder with her right hand in the bag holding the gun. Her left hand was on top of the bag covering her right wrist. She said there were many policemen around and she expected and hoped to be caught at any moment. At one point she began thinking of her son who was nearing the end of his class day and she attempted to leave. She turned and someone asked, "Are you leaving?" She replied, "Yes, do you want my place?" But she said she couldn't get through the crowd and could not leave the other way because of the rope.

Unable to leave, she turned around to her position at the rope. About one minute before the President's departure, a few White House staff and support people exited the Post Street entrance. At this time she pulled the gun out of her purse but realized it was not the President and returned the gun to her pocketbook. At this time she said she thought the President would come out surrounded and she thought she would then probably fire towards the crowd. When the President came through the doorway, she said she was very surprised to see that he didn't have a crowd of men in front of him. She said she had a clear view of him as he approached the car. She could not believe that he was "standing there right in front of me." She said she then calmly and slowly removed the pistol from her pocketbook, aimed high and fired. She was surprised she had so much time to pull, aim and fire, and felt she would be stopped, even then. Sarah Moore was then asked, "Were you shooting to kill the President?" She said she didn't know but she just aimed and fired. She said after firing the gun she was immediately knocked to the ground. When questioned why she had done this, she could provide no reason for her actions.

The interview was ended and Sarah Moore was removed to police headquarters for further questioning by the FBI and SAs Haskell and Yauger. At police headquarters, SA Frank Doyle, FBI, orally advised her of her constitutional rights at which time she elected to seek legal counsel.

She was arraigned before U. S. Magistrate Owen E. Woodruff who instructed her she was being charged with violation of Title 18, USC Section 1751-C, attempting to kill the President with a handgun. The Court appointed counsel and set bail at $500,000.00. The case was then continued to September 23, at 2 p.m., at which time a decision would be made regarding psychiatric evaluation under Title 18, USC Section 4244. She was remanded to the custody of the U. S. Marshal and incarcerated at the San Francisco County Jail, Hall of Justice, San Francisco.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Resident Agent Frank Belecky, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Oakland, was contacted on the evening of September 22, and he stated that their agent Lyman Schaffer, San Francisco, had been previously furnished with subject's name by the FBI as having possible gun connections. Further, that on September 20, Inspector O'Shea had told SA Schaffer that he had an informant, Sarah Jane Moore, who had a contact for weapons. A meeting was set for 9:30 a.m., September 21, at which time O'Shea and a BATF undercover agent met with Sarah Moore. She told them she had a .44 caliber Charter Arms revolver and had to pay Mark Fernwood that same day for the weapon. (It is noted that Moore apparently did not know that the undercover agent was with BATF as she disliked "Feds".) The undercover agent accompanied Sarah Moore to Fernwood's home at 1341 Camino Tassajara, Danville, California, where she wrote a personal check, paying Fernwood for the .44 caliber Charter Arms revolver. The agent stated the check she wrote was for $132, which included $125 for the gun and $7 for the ammunition.

A discussion was had regarding the purchase of firearms by the undercover agent, and Fernwood stated that for a deposit he could shop around for any type of weapon requested. During this meeting at least one handgun was shown to the undercover agent which he later described as a chrome-plated .38 caliber Special revolver. (It is noted that Sarah Moore did not express any interest in this weapon at this time.)

Mr. Belecky said that following this meeting, Sarah Moore was no longer needed by them in order to re-establish contact with Fernwood.

The FBI advised they had seized Moore's checkbook following her arrest which reflected the two last entries as personal check written to Fernwood on 9-21-75 for $132 and personal check written to Fernwood on 9-22-75 for $138 with a notation ".38 cal."

Secret Service personnel in the San Francisco office did receive three telephone calls, and although she identified herself, Sarah Moore refused to provide a return telephone number or her location, and gave no response when she was asked what she wished to talk about. She subsequently hung up when the duty agent attempted to question her further.

Inspector Joe O'Sullivan, SFPD, when interviewed about his telephone conversation with Moore the morning of September 22, said she wanted to talk with Inspector O'Shea and him; that he advised her they were tied up with the President and they would see her on Sept. 23.

R. FORD LIBRARY

He said she appeared to be calm and rational and gave no indication of any animosity towards the President, nor did she mention that she might frequent the Union Square area during the presidential visit.

Special Agents Haskell and Yauger were told that Sarah Moore called them shortly before the President's arrival in San Francisco. However, in view of the fact that she left no message or return phone number, and a determination had been made previously that she was not deemed a danger to protectees of this Service at this time, no further action was deemed appropriate.

Sarah Moore's purse was searched by the FBI and the Secret Service will be furnished with copies of pertinent papers therefrom. Included in the purse was a diary. The names and telephone numbers are being checked by the FBI.

The FBI advised they have interviewed Dr. Willard Carmel, former husband of Sarah Moore, who advised that she had received mental treatment at Gladstone Hospital at Oakland, at UCLA Medical Center at Los Angeles and at the Kaiser Hospital at Walnut Creek. These records are being checked.

On September 23, at 2 p.m. Sarah Moore appeared before Magistrate Woodruff who ordered her to be transported to the San Diego Metropolitan Correctional Center, San Diego, Cal., for psychiatric testing and evaluation. A hearing on the psychiatric report was scheduled for 10 a.m., on November 18. A stay of execution was granted until 4 p.m., on September 26, for possible appeal by defense counsel.

Sarah Moore resided at 565 Guerrero Street, San Francisco, which address until recently was the residence of Joyce Marie Halverson. Joyce and Paul Halverson were close associates of Camilla Hall, one of the SLA members who died in the shootout in Los Angeles.

On September 22, at about 8 p.m., three females and one male appeared at the Federal Building in San Francisco and asked to see Sarah Moore saying they were friends of hers. FBI agents responded to the location and one female identified herself as Stefani Wendie Regalia, a secretary for the Federal Public Defender's office. The other three refused to identify themselves but one was recognized as Joyce Marie Halverson.

The Secret Service Intelligence Advance for the San Francisco trip was handled by Special Agents Gary Yauger and Thomas Keough from the headquarters Intelligence Division, and Special Agents Martin Haskell and James O'Connor, representing the San Francisco office.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

These agents operated under the general on-site supervision of Special Agent in Charge Kenneth Iacovonni of our San Francisco field office and SAIC Horace Gibbs of our headquarters Intelligence Division. The agents submitted situation reports dated September 13, September 17 and September 20 covering their advance intelligence contacts prior to this visit. They investigated two active potential threat cases, interviewing one of the individuals and alerting all agents and police concerning the possible appearance of the other. They also investigated six other individuals believed to be of an immediate protective interest, resolving each to the satisfaction of their superiors. One additional subject, Ronald Carlo, was arrested by this Service in San Francisco on September 22 for a threat made against the life of the President.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY